

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 213
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Reported from the Committee on Education, May 10, 2007, with recommendation that the Senate Committee Substitute do pass.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

0462S.09C

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to protecting student academic freedom.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new
2 section, to be known as section 173.057, to read as follows:

**173.057. 1. Each public higher education institution shall have
2 policies that promote academic freedom between and among students
3 and faculty. Each public higher education institution shall notify
4 students of all policies and procedures associated with academic
5 freedom.**

**6 2. No student shall be penalized for the expression of an opinion
7 when such opinion relates to the subject matter being taught or issues
8 being discussed. Students who believe that their rights to a learning
9 environment that is founded on academic freedom have been violated
10 shall be entitled to file a grievance alleging that the provisions of this
11 section have been violated.**

**12 3. Each public institution of higher education shall establish and
13 maintain procedures by which students may file grievances alleging the
14 provisions of subsections 1 or 2 of this section have been violated;
15 provided, however, that when a student's grievance relates to a grade
16 or examination score, that student shall first exhaust the institution's
17 academic grievance process.**

**18 4. When any student asks a course instructor for assistance in
19 how to file a grievance about an alleged student academic freedom
20 policy violation, the course instructor shall inform the student of all**

21 options available for resolving the student's grievance.

22 5. No later than July 1, 2008, each public higher education
23 institution shall submit to the coordinating board for higher education
24 a report detailing the specific measures taken to promote student
25 academic freedom. The coordinating board for higher education shall
26 make each report available to any party that so requests, including the
27 governor, members of the general assembly, and members of the
28 public. Each report shall include information including, but not limited
29 to, the following:

30 (1) The full text of the policies and procedures required in
31 subsection 1 to 4 of this section;

32 (2) The process to notify students of all policies and procedures
33 associated with student academic freedom;

34 (3) The number of grievances filed by students alleging that
35 policies promoting academic freedom have been violated and the
36 resolution of each grievance during the previous twelve months;

37 (4) The process used to notify course instructors of their
38 responsibility associated with student grievances as set forth in
39 subsection 4 of this section.

40 6. No later than July 1, 2009, and annually thereafter, each
41 public higher education institution shall submit to the coordinating
42 board for higher education a report detailing any changes of the
43 policies and procedures required in subdivisions (1) to (4) of subsection
44 5 of this section and the number of grievances filed by students alleging
45 that policies promoting academic freedom have been violated and the
46 resolution of each grievance during the previous twelve
47 months. Within three months of receiving reports from public higher
48 education institutions, the coordinating board for higher education
49 shall provide a report to the general assembly compiling the number of
50 grievances received at each public institution of higher education for
51 the given year.

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